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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/900,621

07/06/2001

Joel S. Bader

21402-019 (Cura-319)

6073

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7590

01/29/2004

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BOSTON, MA 02111

EXAMINER

MARSCHER, ARDIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1631

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/900,621	BADER ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ardin Marschel	1631	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \*   c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) 2 sheets
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT ELECTION**

Applicant's election of Group I (claims 1-36) in the Paper filed 11/3/03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

### **VAGUENESS AND INDEFINITENESS**

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In instant claim 1, steps (a) and (b), probing and generating is carried out as described utilizing the first sample nucleic acid population. The representation results are set forth as limitations (i) and (ii) in said step (b) as being directed to (i), a length between target occurrences and (ii), identities of various target subsequences. Said limitations are not cited as being directed to nucleotide sequence information per se. Confusingly, in step (c) of claim 1, each such representation is compared to "different nucleotide sequences" of a second population. Without generating sequence(s) per se in step (b), what is meant by comparing the step (b) representation with such a sequence? Claims 18 and 24 also contains this unclarity. Clarification via clearer claim wording is requested. Claims which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 18, or 24 also contain this unclarity due to their dependence.

In instant claim 1, part (a), optionally only one recognition means is utilized which, in that case, results in the statement that each recognition means recognizes a "different" target or set of target nucleotide subsequences. Thus, the antecedent basis of such "different" recognition means is unclear when there is only "one" recognition means being utilized for probing. This unclarity is also present in independent claims 8, 18, 21, and 24. Clarification via clearer claim wording is requested. Claims which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8, 18, 21, 24, or 27 also contain this unclarity due to their dependence.

### **PRIOR ART**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 15, 18-29, 31, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and (e)(2) as being clearly anticipated by Helentjaris et al. (P/N 5,385,835).

The reference is directed to the generation of RFLPs which represent the length between loci of nucleic acids separated by said RFLPs as summarized in the abstract. Various Figures, such as Figures 9-15, including statistical correlation values depict the representation of signals which show RFLPs as well as identities of RFLP target regions

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in plant chromosomes. Recognition means for probing sample nucleic acid populations are described via cloned probes and/or Southern blotting in column 2, lines 38-47, and column 6, line 19, through column 13, line 18. Genotype population correlations are disclosed as comparing as required in the last step of instant claim 1 in the reference at several citations, such as at column 9, lines 19-55, and in a specific example in column 15, lines 3-15, wherein first and second populations of nucleic acids are disclosed for classes of individuals as being homozygous, heterozygous, etc. Thus, the three steps of the above listed instant claims are anticipated as well as the corresponding sample characterizations of the presence and absence of particular nucleic acids via detection practice.

#### **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Enclosed is a PTO Form 1449 whereon a search report is lined through due to such documents lacking a date of publication as required for citations on said Form.

No claim is allowed.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the Central PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Central PTO Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ardin Marschel, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571)272-0718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (571)272-0722.

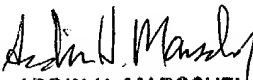
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Legal Instrument Examiner, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (571)272-0549 or to the Technical Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

January 22, 2004

  
ARDIN H. MARSCHEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER